

AGERATUM PLANT NAMED 'AGETIS'

*See paper #3*Background of the new plant

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The present invention comprises a new distinct cultivar of Ageratum, botanically known as *Ageratum houstonianum*. The new cultivar is propagated from cuttings resulting from the cross of 'Q343-2' and 'S570-2'. 'Q343-2' is a purple flowering Ageratum having a compact habit. 'Q343-2' is not commercially available and is not known by any synonyms. 'S570-2' is a blue and white flowering Ageratum having an upright habit. 'S570-2' is a selection from the variety 'Southern Cross'.

Neither 'Q342-2' or 'S570-2' has been patented. As a result of this cross the present cultivar was created in 1997 in Enkhuizen, Netherlands and has been repeatedly asexually reproduced by cuttings in Enkhuizen, Netherlands, in Gilroy, USA, in Angers, France and in Sarrians, France over a three-year period. It has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations, and this novelty appears to be firmly fixed.

This new Ageratum plant is an annual in most climatical zones in the US, only in zones 9

20 and 10 is it a perennial plant.

Description of the drawing

25 This new Ageratum plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographic drawing which shows blooms, buds and foliage of the plant in full color, the color shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

Description of the new cultivar

The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of this new Ageratum. The data which defines these characteristics were collected from asexual reproductions carried out in Enkhuizen, Netherlands. The plant history was taken on 20 weeks old plants, blossomed under natural light and artificial light in a greenhouse. Color readings were taken in the greenhouse under ambient light. Color references are primarily to the RHS Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London.

Differences between the new variety 'Agetis', its parents and a similar cultivar

Character	'Agetis'	'Q343-2'	'S570-2'	'R116'
Flower color	Blue	Purple	Blue and white	Blue
Size of capitulum	16-21 mm	6-9 mm	16-21 mm	7-9 mm
Plant height	30-40 cm	20-25 cm	25-35 cm	20-25 cm
Branching	At every internode	At every internode	Not at every internode	At every internode

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The Plant

- Classification - Botanical : *Ageratum houstonianum*
- Parentage - Female parent : A seedling named 'Q343-2' is one of our seedlings from our Q-generation of plants bred in 1987
- 15 - Pollen parent : A seedling named 'S570-2' is one of our seedlings from our S-generation of plants bred in 1997
- Growth habit : Erect, well branched
- Plant height : 30-40 cm
- Spreading area of plant : 30-40 cm
- 20 Growth rate : Vigorous
- Strength : Very good

	Branching character	: Freely branching and lateral branching at every node
	Blooming period	: Year round
5	<u>The stem</u>	
	Diameter	: 2-2.5 mm
	Shape	: Round
	Color	: 145 B
	Anthocyan pigmentation	: Absent
10	Length of internode	: 30-42 mm, depending on the light where the plant is propagated
	Pubescence	: Slightly pubescent
15	<u>The Foliage</u>	
	Phyllotaxis	: Opposite, decussate
	Shape of blade:	: Cordate
	Texture	- Upper side : Slightly pubescent
		- Lower side : Slightly pubescent
	Venation	: Reticulate
20	Leaf margin	: Crenate
	Leaf base	: Cordate
	Leaf apex	: Rounded
	Length	: 27-63 mm
	Width	: 30-68 mm
25	Color	- Upper side : Dark green 137A
		- Lower side : Medium green 143A
	Pubescence	: Some pubescence is present
	Length of petiole	: 11-15 mm

Color of petiole : Light green 145C
 Petiole surface texture : Slightly pubescent

Inflorescence

- 5 Inflorescence : Compound umbel of capitula.
 Length of peduncle : 18-35 mm
 Color of peduncle exposed to light : RHS 152B
 Color of peduncle not exposed to light: RHS 145A
 Length of pedicel : 4-11 mm
 10 Color of pedicel : RHS 145A
 Number of capitula per inflorescence : 10-19
 Number of disc florets per capitulum : 80-120
 Number of bracts per capitulum : 23-25
 Length of bract : 4-5 mm
 15 Color of bracts : RHS 143A
 Diameter of capitulum at beginning
 of flowering : 7-8 mm
 Color of capitulum at beginning
 of flowering : RHS 083D
 20 Diameter of capitulum at full
 flowering : 16-21 mm
 Color of capitulum at full flowering : RHS 086D
 Length of stigma and style : 8-9 mm
 Color of stigma : RHS 091A
 25 Fragrance : No fragrance
 Lastingness of the bloom : The capitula of one umbel open over a period of
 5 to 6 weeks

Seeds

Seedset : No seedset has been observed

Roots

5 Type of roots : Fibrous. Roots start to grow on every part of the stem that contacts the soil, so not only at the nodes.

Physiological and ecological characteristics:

Good tolerance to heat and cold, but no frost tolerance. Strong resistance to pests and diseases.